

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00601 01 OF 02 311530Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 /092 W

-----022817 311539Z /42 15

R 310330Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9306

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0601

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR PINR PROP LA RO UR CH CB VM ETRD

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LAOS GOVES BADLY

SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU LED A PARTY AND STATE DELEGATION WHICH VISITED VIENTIANE FROM MAY 26 TO MAY 28. CEAUSESCU MET WITH SENIOR LAO PARTY AND STATE OFFICIALS AND WAS ENTERTAINED IN VIENTIANE. THE VISIT APPARENTLY WENT VERY BADLY. THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON A FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND NO SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS ON TRADE OR ON FRIENDSHIP/COOPERATION. THE ROMANIANS APPARENTLY OBJECTED TO LAO SUBSERVIENT TO VIETNAMESE CONTROL AND TO LAO INSISTENCE THAT THE ROMANIANS AGREE TO AN AID PROGRAM FOR LAOS. THE ROMANIANS WANTED INSTEAD TO ESTABLISH A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AID/TRADE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00601 01 OF 02 311530Z

RELATIONSHIP. THE EXTENT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OVER THE VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEA BORDER CONFLICT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT, NOR WAS THERE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT FROM EITHER SIDE ON RAPIDLY DETERIORATING CHINESE-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. CEAUSESCU REPORTEDLY HAD HOPED TO PLAY PEACEMAKER BETWEEN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA, BUT THESE HOPES HAD DIMMED FOLLOWING THE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO

HANOI. END SUMMARY.

1. A ROMANIAN PARTY AND STATE DELEGATION LED BY ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU VISITED LAOS FROM THE MORNING OF MAY 26 TO THE MORNING OF MAY 28. THE VISIT WAS THE FIRST BY A HIGH RANKING ROMANIAN PARTY AND STATE DELEGATION TO LAOS. IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST VISIT BY A HEAD OF STATE AND ONLY THE SECOND VISIT BY A HEAD OF PARTY TO THE LPDR. (THE FIRST HEAD OF PARTY TO VISIT THE LPDR WAS THE VCP'S LE DUAN IN JULY 1977.) THE CEAUSESCU VISIT RECIPROCATED THE LATE-1976 VISIT TO ROMANIA OF KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE, LPRP GENERAL SECRETARY AND LPDR PRIME MINISTER.

2. CEAUSESCU'S DELEGATION WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY KAYSONE; BY SOUPHANOUVONG, MEMBER OF THE LPRPCC POLITBURO AND LPDR PRESIDENT; BY PHOUNE SIPRASEUT, MEMBER OF THE LPRPCC POLITBURO, VICE PRIME MINISTER, AND FOREIGN MINISTER; AND BY OTHER SENIOR LAO PARTY AND STATE OFFICIALS. (NOUHAK PHOUMSAVAN, LPRPCC POLITBURO MEMBER AND VICE PRIME MINISTER, WAS ABSENT FROM ALL CEREMONIES DURING THE VISIT. HE IS RUMORED TO BE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THE ABSENCE OF OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS, PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, KHAMTAI SIPHANDONE AND SISOMPHONE LOVANSAI, IS UNEXPLAINABLE.) PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG, WHOSE PARTY RANK IS JUNIOR TO GENERAL SECRETARY KAYSONE, DEFERRED TO HIM AT THE WELCOMING AND OTHER PUBLIC CEREMONIES. KAYSONE ALWAYS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00601 01 OF 02 311530Z

WALKED AND SAT NEXT TO CEAUSEECU.

3. A SENIOR ASEAN DIPLOMAT WHO MET WITH A DIPLOMAT FROM ROMANIA'S HANOI EMBASSY ON MAY 29 TOLD US THAT THE VISIT WENT VERY BADLY. DESPITE AN ALL NIGHT NEGOTIATING SESSION LASTING UNTIL 0500 HOURS MAY 28, IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE FOR A JOINT LAO-ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE. (A JOINT STATEMENT WAS ISSUED FOLLOWING CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO HANOI.) THE PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK WAS ROMANIAN OBJECTIONS TO WHAT THE ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT FROM HANOI TERMED VIETNAMESE JARGON IN THE LAO TEXT. (THE ROMANIAN USED AS AN EXAMPLE LAO INSISTENCE ON THE INCLUSION OF THE PHRASE "CULTURAL, TECHNOLOGICLA, AND POLITICAL REVOLUTION.")

4. THE LAO AND ROMANIANS ALSO REPORTEDLY FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A TRADE ACCORD. THE ROMANIANS PROPOSED ASSISTANCE TO A PLYWOOD FACTORY IN VIENTIANE (WHICH CEAUSESCU VISITED) IN EXCHANGE FOR EXPORT OF LAO COFFEE TO ROMANIA AT CONCESSIONARY PRICES. THE LAO INSISTED ON SIMPLE ROMANIAN AID TO THE PLYWOOD FACTORY. (THE ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED THE LAO POSITION BY

GESTURING PALM UP TO THE ASEAN DIPLOMAT IN A BEGGING MANNER.)

5. THE LAO AND ROMANIANS ALSO FAILED TO SIGN A FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE TWO SIDES REPORTEDLY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE LANGUAGE FOR THE AGREEMENT EARLIER IN BUCHAREST. IT APPEARS THAT THE LAO REFUSED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AS AN INDICATION OF THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THE ROMANIANS' FAIL TO ACCEDE TO THE LAO POSITION ON THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE TEXT. IN HIS SPEECH GIVEN AT THE LAO-HOSTED WELCOMING BANQUET, CEAUSESCU HAD REFERRED TO "VARIOUS QUESTIONS ALREADY JOINTLY CONSIDERED IN BUCHAREST: AND TO "AGREEMENTS THAT MAY BE REACHED."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENTI 00601 01 OF 02 311530Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00601 02 OF 02 310912Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 /092 W
-----019675 310916Z /15

R 310330Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9307
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0601

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. THE ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT REPORTEDLY TOLD THE ASEAN DIPLOMAT THAT IT APPEARED THAT LAOS WAS FIRMLY UNDER

VIETNAMESE CONTROL. THE ROMANIAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT VIETNAMESE CONTROL OVER LAOS WAS NOT ONLY AN OUTGROWTH OF HO CHI MINH'S TESTAMENT, BUT WAS LINKED TO SOVIET DESIRES TO CREATE A COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT. THE ROMANIAN ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WERE OPPOSED TO THE ROMANIAN VISIT TO LAOS. THIS APPEARS TO BE BORNE OUT BY A REPORT FROM ANOTHER ASEAN DIPLOMAT WHO SAID A SOVIET COLLEAGUE TOLD HIM THAT THE LAO DID NOT WANT THE ROMANIANS TO VISIT. (COMMENT: IN THE PAST, THE SOVIETS HAVE PRESUMED TO SPEAK FOR THE LAO, IN FACT ACTUALLY REFLECTING THEIR OWN VIEWS.)

7. IN WELCOMING REMARKS AT THE LAO-HOSTED BANQUET MAY 26, KAYSONE SPOKE OF THE VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT SAYING: "WE REGRET THE BORDER INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00601 02 OF 02 310912Z

OCCURED BETWEEN KAMPUCHEA AND VIET NAM. WE CONSIDER THE THREE-POINT PROPOSAL STIPULATED IN THE 5 FEBRUARY 1978 STATEMENT OF THE SRV GOVERNMENT ON VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEAN RELATIONS TO BE A REASONABLE PROPOSAL, AND WE EARNESTLY DESIRE THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE TIME HONORED FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, THE SAID DISPUTE WILL BE PEACEFULLY SETTLED SOON IN THE INTEREST OF THE TWO PEOPLES AS WELL AS IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS REGION." (THE TEXT MF THE KAYSONE SPEECH WAS DISTRIBUTED IN FRENCH TO GUESTS. THE TYPED TEXTUAL REFERENCE TO THE VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEAN "CONFLICT" WAS APPARENTLY CHANGED AT THE LAST MINUTE AND REPLACED BY THE INKED-IN PHRASE "DIFFEREND FRONTALIER".)

8. CEAUSESCU IN HIS BANQUET REMARKS MADE POSSIBLE REFERENCES TO THE VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT BY REFERRING TO "ARMED CONFLICTS" AND THE NEED TO SETTLE THESE PROBLEMS "THROUGH POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMONG THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEMS." THE ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT REPORTEDLY TOLD OUR ASEAN SOURCE THAT CEAUSESCU HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO SECURE THE AGREEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE AND KAMPUCHEANS TO EITHER A CEASEFIRE OR A DECREASE IN THE LEVEL OF MILITARY OPERATIONS ON BOTH SIDES. THE ROMANIAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ON THE BASIS OF TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN HANOI, THE CEAUSESCU DELEGATION WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ITS CHANCES OF MAKING ANY PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE WHILE IN PHNOM PENH.
ROBERTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, VISITS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-0698
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978051/aaaaaaha.tel
Line Count: 221
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c4fbe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2502769
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LAOS GOVES BADLY SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU LED A PARTY AND STATE DELEGATION WHICH VISITED VIENTIAN E FROM
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PROP, ETRD, OVIP, LA, RO, UR, CH, CB, VM, STATE, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c4fbe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014